



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

New Website: www.sir17.org

THE **REDWOOD BARK** NEWSLETTER

For **JAN. 2021**

All members are invited to attend our next SIR Meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2021 using Zoom...

A link and password will be made available from BIG Sir George Traverso to you before the meeting.

Directions on how to use Zoom can be found on our SIR17 website, click on the following:

http://www.sir17.org/uploads/1/2/3/8/123881033/how_to_join_a_sir17_zoom_meeting.docx

January 21st Meeting Schedule via **Zoom!**

Social Hour: 11:00 am Please check in about 5 minutes early to be ready to avoid the last minute rush.

Program: Keith Woods, Chief Executive Officer, North Coast Builders Exchange. His topic is: *Building & Rebuilding in the North Bay after five years of devastating fires: How far have we come and how far do we have to go?*

January 21st Lunch Menu

Same as the last 10 months have been,

Fix your own sandwiches--at home!

Beverages: Your choice...

BIG Sir George Traverso's Message

geosan@sbcglobal.net 528-6987



We leave the year 2020 with a thought of uncertainty and enter the New Year 2021 with hopes and dreams of a non-COVID-19 future.

As the new year progresses, I find comfort in three areas: food, family and friends. Certainly, these topics are fundamental to human existence. Even in pandemic-free times the "three F's" are important to me.



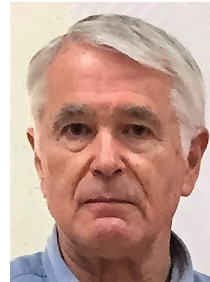
However, I take this moment to express my thoughts on these important areas with the **Roman god of January, Janus**, who is looking backward to the past and looking forward to the future.

During the shelter in place lock down period, I am rediscovering that the enjoyment of food is particularly important. Other than shopping for food items at my favorite local markets (with a double mask) I enjoy the great cooking and food preparation that my wife, Sandra, prepares every day. At the end of each meal, I must report that I oversee cleanup. With all the enjoyment of eating, I am gaining a little weight ...a minor downside of the pandemic.

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Little Sir Gordon Boulton Message

gboulton@aol.com 548-8063



As I found myself in the position of Little Sir beginning this January, I was reminded of a bit of dialog from the TV show MASH, when Major "Hot Lips" Houlihan first gets a taste of Hawkeye Pierce's personality. If I may paraphrase to fit our current situation:

Random Branch member: "I wonder how a degenerated person like Gordon Boulton could have reached a position of responsibility as Little Sir in our venerable Branch 17?"

Big Sir George Traverso: "He was drafted."

In other words, you don't have to be qualified, just in the wrong place at the wrong time!

When I first joined Sir (current Big Sir George was my sponsor) I was interviewed by Bob Reuther and Fred Rose who asked what activities I liked best about the club. I said it was the monthly luncheons and guest speakers. How ironic that I am now Little Sir, when we can't meet for "real" luncheons and I am responsible for finding "Zoom" guest speakers! Not what I had in mind! Oh well. If any of you have suggestions for guest speakers who can Zoom, let me know! My land-line is 707-584-8063 and my cell is 707-217-5709.

Thanks, and I hope to hear from some of you.

**SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3.
The following is a list of your 2021 Officers and Directors.**

OFFICERS:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	DIRECTORS:
Big Sir: George Traverso	geosan@sbcglobal.net	707-528-6987	Ken Johnson
Little Sir: Gordon Boulton	gboulton@aol.com	707-548-8063	Rich de Lambert
Secretary: Kurt Wehrmeister	kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com	630-461-2715	Tom Lubas
Asst. Secretary: Jim Gurke,	1jgurke@gmail.com	707-303-0989	Chris Nolen
Treasurer: Al Petrie	alpetrie7@aol.com	707-974-9193	Paul Willihnganz
Asst. Treasurer: John Gnam.	musicmed@sonic.net	707-528-0592	Elias Zegarra
Newsletter Editor: Jim Fenstermaker .	sirsbrn17@gmail.com	707-548-3346	
			WEBMASTERS:
STATE PRESIDENT Stuart Williams	AREA 10 GOVERNOR Robert Reuther	REGION 3 DIRECTOR Dennis Pangburn	Dennis Mangan Jim Fenstermaker

BIG Sir George Traverso's Message (continued)

Food and family are two ingredients that are connected in enjoying holiday festivities. However, during the past month's adverse schedule these two components were practically non-existent in a linked design. In retrospect, most of society's celebrations include food as a primary ingredient. The sharing of this precious commodity is present in our DNA as a point of enjoyment and celebration of life...from weddings to post-funeral gatherings.

In addition to my love of family, I must include a mention of my grandson Hugo, age 13. He is a seventh-grade student at Saint John's School in Healdsburg. His love is Sports. In pre-pandemic days, Hugo played basketball as a center for the St. John Tigers. Playing Little League baseball in his early years and golfing with his dad, Michael, added to his passion for sports. His affinity for sports began as a young child reading the Press Democrat Sports Section. Recently, he has produced a sports blog. As president, CEO, head writer and sports broadcaster, Hugo manages an interesting insight into a variety of sports topics and interviews with many personalities in that field. Hugo's analysis, questions and comments can be discovered on hugosports.360.com Tune in and discover a remarkably interesting member of my family.

Finally, I arrive at the topic of friends. My good friend, Sir Marvin Mai, introduced me to this outstanding men's group shortly after I retired in 2011. As the saying goes...“to make a friend, you must be a friend.” This motto is certainly applicable to our SIR Branch 17. Our group is filled with individuals who are bonded together in friendship. This is the strength of SIR. I am proud to be included in this distinguished organization. Oops! I must go now. I smell something cooking in the kitchen!

UPDATE: Big Sir for 2021 Personnel & Duties

Big Sir George Traverso will be filling in for Big Sir Gary Bondi until such time when Gary will be able to serve due to his current health issues. The following is a note from Gary explaining his situation.

Please accept my apology for not staying in contact with all of you. I have put off sending this email as I was awaiting final tests to update my health situation. That said, I owe it to all of you to let you know my status with SIR Branch 17.



Much to my regret and disappointment, I must inform you that I will not be able to assume the duties of Big Sir on Jan. 1, 2021. When we began our term in 2020 I was excited and so looking forward to our year and 2021. However, things did change a bit for all of us.

That said, I am still having some issues and have now developed another case of pneumonia. I am also awaiting further tests to see if the chemo has done its job or if I will need further surgery. If that is the case, it will be in January and will require a long recovery period. I am hopeful I will not have to go there, but time will tell! If things do go well, I may be able to step up and assume my Big Sir duties later in the 2021 year. I also must apologize for not being able to carry out my Little Sir duties this year, such as they were.

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UPDATE: Big Sir for 2021 (continued from page 2)

I and the entire membership of our SIR Branch 17 owe a deep debt of gratitude to you, George, the BEC and all the members who stepped up to the plate to keep us active and viable. I know it has not been easy and it does not look like things will change soon. I definitely miss our luncheons, all the activities and fellowship of our Branch. I look forward, with great optimism, to resuming those activities as soon as possible!

Regretfully submitted,
Gary Bondi,

Recap of Nov. 19, Luncheon Professor Crowley

We, who were fortunate to zoom into our luncheon meeting on December 17th, were entertained by Professor Emeritus William Crowley.

After retiring from Sonoma State University in 2007, Professor Bill became a lecturer on various cruise lines. His emphasis is geography and he guided us with slides and experiences from Antarctica and a sparse desert in Chile to the Mediterranean Sea and the beautiful Greek islands. Bill wears many hats and we hope he returns to share with us many more interesting topics.



Professor Bill's exciting travel lecture gave us hope and enthusiasm to just maybe to do some traveling in the future. We hope to see Bill again soon!

Our Future Meetings, via Zoom

less the lunch of course!

The 2021 **regular meetings** for now will be held on our usual dates of the third Thursday, starting at **11:00** am.

Jan 21st Feb 18th Mar 18th Apr 15th

The **BEC meetings** will be held on the first Thursday, starting at **10:00** am.

Jan 7th Feb 4th Mar 4th Apr 1st

January 21st Luncheon Meeting Speaker

Keith Woods, the CEO of the North Coast Builders Exchange, a position he has held since 2000. The 1100-member organization represents contractors and construction-related firms in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, and Napa Counties.



His professional experience includes 48 years of organizational management work, including staff and executive positions. Keith has spoken to more than 900 audiences in 48 states and Canada. He also served as President/CEO of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce from 1987-2000.

Keith has spent the past three years working closely with homeowner victims of the devastating fires in 2017, as well as with builders, architects, government officials, and the media as the North Bay continues to recover and rebuild after the historic firestorms.

Keith claims he is just an all-around good guy who thinks SIR members are terrific people who don't get enough credit for all the great things they do in the community.

Good News About Dues for 2021!

We have received a communication from the Sir State Executive Committee. They have voted to **suspend collection** of the 2021 first quarter Branch Assessments. At this time, the suspension only affects the **first** quarter Assessments.

With this news, during the November 5th SIR Branch 17 BEC meeting it was voted to **suspend** our dues for the calendar year 2021.

It was also noted that **(1)** the BEC may reinstitute dues as a membership requirement whenever the resumption of in-person activities makes it appropriate; **(2)** the BEC may also solicit donations to help offset the few continuing operating expenses.

Have you been tested for the coronavirus?

If not, then you need to do it!

The best place to find out where to go is go online to socoemergency.org

You can find information there which is available for all Sonoma County residents, regardless of your documentation status. No ID is required and everyone is allowed to receive a test, regardless.

For those without internet access, then call the Sonoma County's 24-hour information hotline at **211 or 800-325-9604**

All members are invited to attend all of the meetings. Call Big SIR George Traverso at 707-528-6987 or email to geosan@sbcglobal.net Directions on how to use Zoom can be found on our SIR17 website at: http://www.sir17.org/uploads/1/2/3/8/123881033/how_to_join_a_sir17_zoom_meeting.docx or click [here](#).

SIR Branch 17, Member Profile: George Traverso, Badge #3

Christmas...a time for family gatherings, cooking delicious dishes and sharing memories of holidays past. This is a perfect time to interview George Traverso, a SIR member who seems to embody the spirit of Christmas. Why? Because by the time we had finished talking, the conversations seemed to all revolve around friends, family, food and fond memories.

For those who know Santa Rosa, the Traverso name is synonymous with their grocery store and deli started in 1932. George spent his childhood days in an apartment above the original store in downtown Santa Rosa. All early memories go back to that store: the images of high ceilings, stocked shelves, the aroma of Italian meats and cheeses, customers roaming around and the creaky sounds of the wooden floors. Imagine what it was like to be a kid with a backyard that's a parking lot. George says his parents biggest fear was him getting run over there.



George not only worked in the grocery store, he also went into the fields and picked prunes. He got a whopping 25 cents per box and with the money saved, headed down to Kress' Five and Dime store on 4th Street (the building now houses Mary's Pizza Shack and still bears the Kress name way up on top). What did he buy? Of course, what other young boys craved in the mid 1950s: an authentic Davy Crockett coonskin cap as seen on TV worn by Fess Parker!

George tells of how much he enjoyed attending Montgomery High School. He tried out for football, but after a violent collision with another player left him seeing stars, he decided that sport was not for him. He turned to track, where he did shot put, threw discus and ran high hurdles. He liked almost all his classes, including the sciences, industrial arts, and social studies. He especially liked English class with Mr. Haylock who helped him think creatively and become an excellent writer by describing mental images in words. To this day, George's skillful writing is on display in his Big Sir articles in the *BARK* newsletter.

George says he has always been a nerd, a serious guy. He went on dates but never had a steady girlfriend. He liked the structure of high school where

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Member Profiles: *(continued)*

you have a set schedule and move to specific classrooms at specific times. (He worries that COVID-19 homebound kids lack this structured approach to school life.) I asked him to tell me about the worst trouble he ever got into as a kid. Unable to think of anything (compare this with Fred Rose who said he was always getting into trouble!), George said he went outside one New Year's Eve and lit flares, which was illegal, with the help of a friend of the family...the Santa Rosa Chief of Police, Dutch Flohr! Ha! Sorry George, I'm not sure that can be considered "trouble" if you did it with a policeman.

After high school, George attending Santa Rosa Junior College and the University of San Francisco, majoring in industrial relations and economics. He taught high school math and typing at Parkway Junior High School in South San Francisco for a few years before returning to Santa Rosa with his wife, Sandra, to help his dad run the Traverso store. George's passion for education never left him, and after retiring from full time work in 2011 he continues to take courses at Sonoma State University. He is a regular member of our Global Forum group run by Marvin Mai.

George is optimistic about the future. He, like all of us, looks forward to getting away from Zoom and having in-person SIR17 luncheons and activities again. George co-hosts the Wednesday morning Zoom coffee club with Rich de Lambert, sharing food and fond memories with his friends. George, thanks for being our Big Sir and guiding us through one of the most difficult years in history. Happy New Year! *(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

***Congratulations to our December 2020
winner: KEN JOHNSON***

List of the January Birthdays

Glenn Andrade	Barry Bialkoski
Steve Carey	Steve Edelstein
Tom Lubas	Dennis Mangan
Jerry Peterson	

We will celebrate all birthdays whenever we are back to our regular meetings again, but when that will be is???

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A special Thank You to members Gordon Boulton and others for helping me by spotting all my errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and any other boo-boos I have made before the final edition goes to press and you see it.

Jim, the Editor

ACTIVITIES:

Since the health department has placed restrictions on gatherings we have been unable to get together for our meetings and most of the following of our activities have been on **HOLD**, until we receive new instructions.

Bocce, Bowling, Boys' Night Out, Bridge, Camera Club, Couples' Night Out, Free Comedy, Picnic, Poker Fest, Travel Golf, Wine, Beer and Spirits

All just waiting to restart again soon--hopefully!

Coffee Time:

This activity will come back again, via Zoom on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Please join Rich and many others for a friendly chat and to share how you survived the Holidays at Home. Contact Rich de Lambert for more details at richdelambert@gmail.com or call him at 545-3490.

GLOBAL FORUM: (Article by Marvin Mai)



We have continued our "virtual" meetings via Zoom and have had some wonderful wide-ranging discussions.

With the recent news about vaccines, assassinations and peace negotiations, there are always many global issues to tackle. We hope to continue to explore our look at America in the world and critical countries and allies. The upcoming Brexit is also an area that we will continue to look at and how that will affect the U.S. and our EU allies.



If you'd like to be included in the next Zoom meeting on **Friday, Jan 8th at 10:00 am** for the Global Forum meeting, then contact Marvin at maimarvin57@gmail.com or give him a call at 545-2224. He needs to know who is going to attend so he can send you an email with the "link" and any others instructions.

Below is the schedule of dates for SIR Branch 17 Zoom Global Forum discussions slated for every **2 weeks** in 2021.

Time: **10:00 AM** Pacific Time.

January 22, February 5, February 19, March 5

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GOLF:

(Article by Roy Thuestad)

Welcome to 2021 and the many adventures that it will bring. Changes are happening all around, and we just need to adapt and overcome. With that said, the USGA will now require that you create a personal password to access their posting site at GHIN.com. In early January when you go to post a score, you will be directed by the USGA to check your email and set up that password. Once done, you will be able to post utilizing your chosen password. If we do not have your current email address on file, you will not receive that request and will not be able to post. If anything has recently changed with your contact information, please let us know and we'll forward it to the USGA.

Trees?



What Trees?

Try to stay safe and healthy, wear your mask, wash your hands often and stay six feet or more from other people!

Roy Thuestad
707-975-4406

roymond@comcast.net

Joke of the Month



Here's all you need to know to make you a believer in the new vaccine. The company, **Pfizer**, which announced a vaccine against COVID-19 is the same company that created Viagra.

Therefore, we can fully rely on the announced vaccine because if Pfizer was able to raise the dead, they should certainly be able to protect the living!

From Dr. Wood

Sunshine Report:

We need your help to tell us before the monthly meeting if any of our members are sick or if some member has died.



All you need to do is call Kurt Wehrmeister, our Secretary at **630-461-2715** or send him an email to: kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com.

The Poem of the month for January

January - Poem by John Updike

The sun a spark,
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.

Fat snowy footsteps
Track the floor.
Milk bottles burst
Outside the door.

The river is
A frozen place
Held still beneath
The trees of lace.

The sky is low.
The wind is gray.
The radiator
Purrs all day.

NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by, SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guest who desire to participate. SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

**Paranoia has reached
absurd stages...**

**I sneezed in front of
my laptop and the
anti-virus started a
scan on its own**



So let me get this straight, there's no cure for a virus that can be KILLED by sanitizer and hand soap?



Whoever decided a Liquor Store is more essential than a Hair Salon is obviously a bald headed Alcoholic.

HAPPY NEW YEAR